

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 14, and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gold et al. (US 2002/0188704).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8, 14, and 19 are novel and patentable over Gold et al. because, for instance, Gold et al. does not teach or suggest when license information transmitted from the program contract renewal notification destination is inputted, modifying the hardware configuration based on the information regarding the hardware configuration to be modified and modifying the program configuration of the program which operates on the modified hardware based on the information regarding the hardware configuration to be modified and the information regarding the program configuration to be modified.

As discussed in the present application at paragraph [0007], adding hardware resources does not necessarily mean that a program which operates on the hardware is able to use the enhanced capabilities brought about by the addition of the hardware resources. In the case of a parallel application program, for example, which activates a number of processes equivalent to the number of CPUs such that all of the CPUs are used simultaneously, the number of CPUs is increased due to COD, but the application program does not automatically use all of the CPUs. As a result, the client must manually stop and restart the application program and modify the configuration definition. A feature of the present technique is to provide a computer configuration modification method and system for modifying the capacity of a program to reflect a hardware configuration modification. See paragraph [0010]. Thus, both the hardware configuration and the program configuration of the program which operates on the modified hardware are modified.

Gold et al. discloses the use of a license key to upgrade capacity. If a match occurs between the MAC address of the local area network port on the mother board and that contained in the upgrade license key, the operating system increases the capacity limit on a first data partition DATA1 of the secondary data partition 402 to the licensed amount read

from the upgrade license key. See paragraph [0093]. Paragraph [0107] mentions an upgrade capacity license program that checks the upgrade license key data for validity and a MAC address match. There is no teaching of modifying the program configuration of a program that operates on the modified hardware. In short, while Gold et al. discloses modifying (upgrading) the hardware in the form of capacity limit, it does not teach modifying both the hardware configuration and the program configuration of the program that operates on the modified hardware in the computer.

Applicants note that the dependent claims recite additional features not taught or suggested in Gold et al. For example, claim 5 recites that the configuration of the program which operates on the modified hardware is modified based on the modified hardware configuration. Paragraph [0098] discusses the operating system boot procedure, which is halted if there is a violation of license key data and/or upgrade license key data. This does not involve modifying program configuration of a program which operates on the modified hardware based on the modified hardware configuration. Paragraph [0100] describes the "lost upgrade licenses" mode in which the computer entity boots into a condition having data storage capacity specified by the base license key. It also fails to teach modifying program configuration of a program which operates on the modified hardware based on the modified hardware configuration.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-23 are novel and patentable over Gold et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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